

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 142

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to urge the State Board of Education to approve teacher training programs for occupational teacher licensure that utilize online components in delivery method.

WHEREAS, throughout Tennessee, the need for flexibility in the training of occupational educators has been a continuous concern; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education revised the policy governing licensure for occupational educators in October 2014 to remove the specific number of postsecondary teacher preparation credit hours required for licensure; and

WHEREAS, the policy allows for greater innovation and diversity among teacher preparation programs of all varieties, with an emphasis on quality outcomes; and

WHEREAS, it can be difficult for industry career-changers in rural areas to have access to extensive classroom-based teacher training programs to obtain a teaching license; and

WHEREAS, State Board of Education Policy section 5.502 does not prohibit the development and growth of online programs of teacher preparation instruction; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education must approve all teacher preparation programs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recommend and urge the State Board of Education to approve and encourage the establishment of teacher training programs for occupational teacher licensure candidates that are innovative in design and delivery methods, including online components when possible, and that make the most efficient use of coursework possible in order to adequately prepare such educators for the classrooms of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the executive director of the State Board of Education.